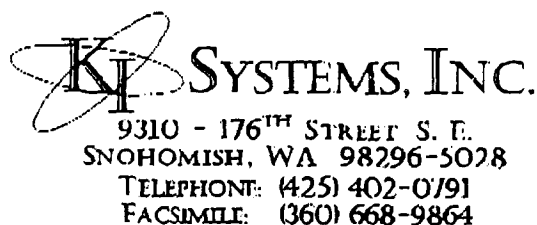
***Fax Cover Sheet***

January 22, 2002

<i>To:</i>	<i>Company:</i>	<i>Telephone No.:</i>	<i>Fax No.:</i>
Attorney General John Ashcroft	US Department of Justice		1-202-307-1454
<hr/>			
<i>From:</i>	Kristi L. LeaMaster	<i>Number of Pages:</i> 2	
		(including this page)	
<i>Regarding:</i>	Microsoft Settlement		
<hr/>			
<i>Comments:</i>			

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January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I was opposed to the government's antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft Corp., but was pleased and surprised when a settlement was finally reached last November.

In my humble estimation, the Justice Department's allegations against Microsoft were entirely unfounded and lacked a basic grasp and understanding of 21st century technology issues. Unfortunately, officials in the previous Justice Department administration insisted upon applying antitrust law that was written over one hundred years ago for "smokestack" industries, such as steel and oil, to a 21st century software company. This misguided approach was doomed from the outset and should have never gotten as far as it did.

Finally, three years later, at a cost of untold millions to the taxpayers of America, a settlement has been reached. If not for Microsoft wanting to get this nightmare over with and therefore accepting the government's settlement offer, the government would probably still be suing the company. The states that refuse to sign on to the settlement are being extremely shortsighted.

The settlement is fair, changing the way Microsoft licenses and designs software, and it is a far better alternative to continuing the lawsuit. Please do whatever it takes to see that it gets finalized. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kristi LeMaster
President